

DISTRICT DISPATCH

A Publication of the North Syracuse Central School District

Volume 30 No. 2

May 2014

School budget vote set for May 20th Budget proposal balances fiscal responsibility with student needs

On Tuesday, May 20, 2014, North Syracuse Central School District residents will be asked to vote on the district's proposed 2014-15 budget.

The \$145,665,035 budget proposal has been developed by carefully balancing the district's tenuous fiscal situation with the need to maintain programs that support student achievement and opportunities for students.

Superintendent of Schools Annette Speach said, "The district has had to make some very difficult reductions in recent years. Now is the time to focus on reductions that are possible due to declining enrollment and case loads to minimize the impact on students and instruction."

School districts have two main sources of funding - state aid and the tax levy. For the 2014-15 school year, the North Syracuse Central School District is expected to receive just under \$61 million in state aid, which accounts for approximately 42 percent of the proposed budget.

Compare that to the 2009-10 school year when state aid represented nearly 47 percent of the district's budget, or \$4 million more.

★ continued on page 5 - "Responsible reductions"



Northstars continue to shine

The district's students continue to excel in the classroom and beyond, including national award winners. Some of the many student accomplishments for the current and recent school years are:

- ★ Two C-NS High School students, Samantha Blume and Laurel Conley, earned national recognition in the **National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards** (pictured above, article on page 7).
- ★ More than \$300,000 in **scholarships** awarded to North Syracuse Central School District students in 2012-13.
- ★ Two C-NS High School students, Brendan Leung and Bryan Junod, were named commended scholars in the 2013 **National Merit Scholarship Competition**.

★ continued on page 3

2014 - 15

Budget at-a-glance

Proposed budget
\$145,665,035

Tax Levy increase
\$1,759,592

Proposed school tax levy increase = 2.24%

Vote: Tuesday, May 20 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.




For residents living
SOUTH of 481

Administrative Office Building
5355 West Taft Road
North Syracuse, NY

For residents living
NORTH of 481

Cicero Elementary School
Route 31
Cicero, NY

TAX IMPACT ON \$100,000 HOME \$51 INCREASE BEFORE STAR

	Cicero	Clay	Salina
			
Full Value	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Assessed Value (AV)	\$100,000	\$4,350	\$100,000
Estimated Tax Rate Per \$1,000 of AV	\$23.18	\$533.06	\$23.18
Estimated Annual School Tax	\$2,318	\$2,318	\$2,318
Tax Increase Yr./Mo.	\$51/\$4.25	\$51/\$4.25	\$51/\$4.25

These calculations exclude the benefits of STAR

Students work together to serve their community

North Syracuse Central School District builds caring citizens



From the time students enter school in the North Syracuse Central School District, they begin learning about becoming part of a community of caring citizens. Each elementary school in the district incorporates character education lessons into their core curricula and those lessons are continued throughout a students' career in the district.

Character education is the teaching of core values. Board of Education Policy requires the district's curriculum to provide for instruction in civility, citizenship and character education.

North Syracuse Central School District Superintendent of Schools Annette Speach explains, "Respect and sense of responsibility are two of the main values taught through our schools' character education programs. Students are taught from an early age that they are part of a larger community and learn how to support that community. As schools and districts increasingly face financial issues and struggle with citizenship, these lessons are crucial in creating a self-sustaining society."

During the 2013-14 school year, several students and staff in the North Syracuse Central School District demonstrated their strong sense of social responsibility.

On October 20, 2013, the first annual Hallowrun for Hunger 5K was held at Oneida Shores in Brewerton. The event was organized by two sophomores at Cicero-North Syracuse High School, Elizabeth Westfall and Megan Cuculich.



The students organized the race to support the Food Bank of CNY. The girls began assisting the Food Bank of CNY several years prior to the race and were inspired to increase their support after seeing the difference they made and witnessing the number of community members in need.

Since both students are runners, they thought a 5K would be a great idea. Megan Cuculich said, "We never knew how many local families struggle to put food on the table and we wanted to do whatever we could to help."

Through the event, more than \$10,000 was raised, \$6,000 of which was donated to the Food Bank after event expenses were paid.

Event organizers are pictured (above left) with their donation: From left to right - Henry Rose, Elizabeth Westfall, Kristin Schug, Joseph Collins and Wesley Smiley with Food Bank of CNY Executive Director, Kathleen Stress. Pictured below left, a great turnout of runners participated in the first Annual Hallowrun for Hunger at Oneida Shores.



Over the past three years, Gillette Road Middle School 5th grade student, DJ Villnave, has been working hard to support a cause that means a great deal to him. Several years ago, when DJ was a second grade student at K.W.S. Bear Road Elementary School, he was watching

the news and saw a story about the Rescue Mission helping those in need.

As he was sitting there wrapped up in a blanket, DJ was inspired to share that gift of warmth with others. He began collecting new and gently used blankets to be donated to the Rescue Mission to help their clients.

In the three years since DJ began his "Gift of Warmth," he has collected more than 1,250 blankets for his cause. Additionally, in December of 2013, DJ earned a \$1,000 Youth Service America Award grant from ABC/Disney for his efforts and chose to donate the money to the Rescue Mission to further support his efforts.

DJ's mother, Sara Villnave is a health teacher at C-NS High School and is incredibly proud of her son. She said, "He's very giving of himself to other people. He thinks of others before he thinks of himself."

DJ is pictured (above) as a second grade student at K.W.S. Bear Road Elementary School during his first blanket drive.

Student accomplishments ★ *continued from page 1*



★ Hundreds of student athletes achieved **scholar athlete** status during the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years. To qualify as a scholar athlete, students must have an overall GPA of 85% or higher and teams must have an average GPA over 90%. (*Girls' indoor track and boys' wrestling pictured above.*)



- ★ Five elementary students, Elizabeth Chase and Alyssa Frysinger from Smith Road Elementary School and Abigail Paolini, Giorgio Rawda and Jacob Schmid from Lakeshore Road Elementary School, scored 100% on their **NY State Science tests**. (*Students are pictured above left with teachers and Director of Science.*)
- ★ C-NS High School and North Syracuse Junior High School students earned more than 20 top 14 medals and had two overall winners at the **New York State DECA competition**. (*Students pictured above right with medals.*)

★ More than 90 students from C-NS High School and North Syracuse Junior High School earned awards in the 2014 **CNY Scholastic Art** competition. Additionally, C-NS student Briana Larroca was singled out for the **John D. Barrow Art Gallery Award for Best Portrait**.

★ C-NS High School sophomore Elizabeth Westfall was recognized for exemplary volunteer service with a **Certificate of Excellence** from the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards and with a **President's Volunteer Service Award** granted by the program on behalf of President Barack Obama. *See article on page 2.*

★ Gillette Road Middle School students Josh Wilk and Christian Bourdon qualified to compete in the **WCNY/Post Standard Scripps Written Spelling Bee**.

★ Gillette Road Middle School student DJ Villnave was awarded an **ABC/Disney Youth Service America Award** and \$1,000 grant for his efforts to help the Rescue Mission. *See article on page 2.*

★ Gillette Road Middle School student Jayden Johnson qualified for the **New York State Geography Bee**.

★ Five C-NS High School students, Mallory DeSousa, Andrew Hughes, Matt Sorensen, Nicholas DiMaria and Andrew Bearkland and one North Syracuse Junior High School student, Christian Jaquay, were chosen to perform in the **OCMEA All-County Jazz Ensembles**.

★ C-NS High School choral student Caroline House was selected for 2014 **Conference All-State Chorus**.

★ At the 2013 Shell Eco-Marathon Americas, the **Performance Engineering Team** placed 1st in Hydrogen Fuel Cell Urban Concept Division and 2nd in Hydrogen Fuel Cell Prototype Division. They also earned a Technical Innovation Award. (*Pictured above middle left.*)

★ 18 C-NS High School students were selected to perform in the **Onondaga County Music Educators Association (OCMEA) All-County Band, Chorus and Orchestra competitions**. (*All-County Band students pictured above middle right.*)

★ **Several athletic and co-curricular teams** earned league, regional, state and national recognition:

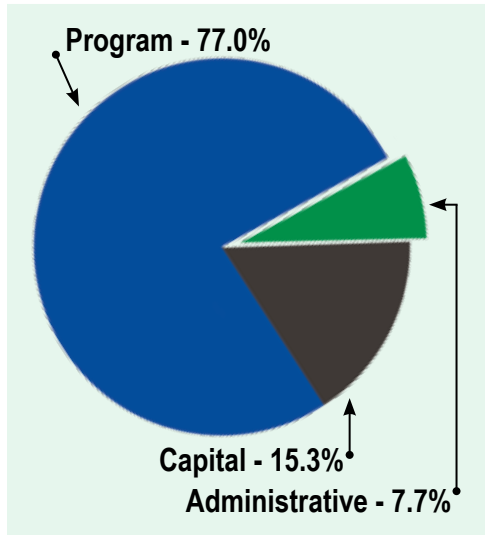
- Girls' Basketball – League, Sectional and Regional champions;
- Cheerleading – Sectional champions;
- Girls' Soccer – Sectional and Regional champions;
- Girls' Field Hockey – League champions;
- Girls' Softball – League, Sectional, Regional and Class AA State champions;
- Boys' Baseball – League champions;
- Boys' Golf – League and Sectional champions;
- Boys' Indoor Track – League champions;
- Boys' Soccer – League champions;
- Boys' Swimming – Section 3 Class A Record Holders;
- Winterguard – (Varsity) finalist and gold medalist at WGI Northeast Regionals and gold medalist at Mid-York Color Guard Championships, (JV) silver medalist at NorthEast Color Guard Circuit Championships and (Junior) silver medalist at Mid York Color Guard Circuit Championships;
- Dance Ensemble (*pictured below left*) - Super Sweepstakes, Captain's Superior, 1st Lyrical in Auxiliaries Southeast Regionals;
- North Syracuse Junior High School Advanced Orchestra and Vocal Jazz Ensembles - 1st place in Music Festivals National Competition in Boston, MA;
- North Syracuse Junior High School Jazz Band and Select Band - 2nd and 4th place at Darien Lake Music Festival;
- C-NS High School Science Olympiad teams (*pictured below right*) – 3rd and 22nd place in Regional contests and qualified for State competition and North Syracuse Junior High School Science Olympiad team – 5th and 13th place in Regional contests;
- Academic Decathlon team – 4th place in Section 3 competition.



Three-part budget summary

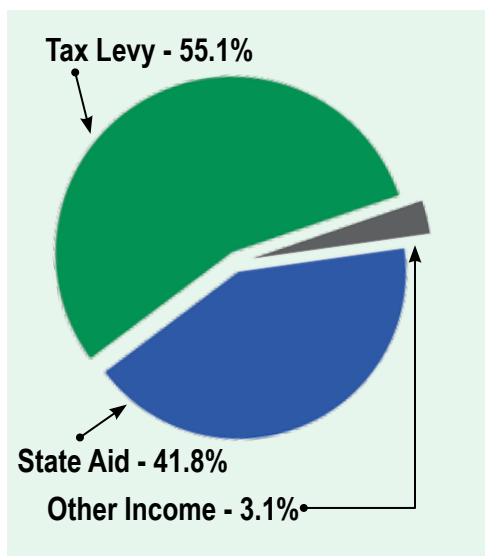
All public schools in New York State are required by law to report spending in three categories: program, administrative and capital. The District's program component represents the largest portion and focal point of its budget, accounting for 77% of the entire budget.

District Expenditures



	2013-14 Budget	2014-15 Proposed	Dollar Change
Program Expenditures	\$110,424,870	\$112,220,450	\$1,795,580
Regular Instruction	\$39,023,260	\$38,929,253	(\$94,007)
Special School Program	\$15,347,389	\$16,356,511	\$1,009,122
Student Services	\$9,161,002	\$8,940,066	(\$220,936)
In-Service Training	\$366,039	\$416,967	\$50,928
Legal	\$95,000	\$80,000	(\$15,000)
Transportation	\$7,952,600	\$7,893,069	(\$59,531)
Employee Benefits	\$38,479,580	\$39,604,584	\$1,125,004
Administrative Expenditures	\$10,587,886	\$11,269,442	\$681,556
Board of Education	\$107,671	\$127,748	\$20,077
Central Administration	\$1,545,133	\$1,707,997	\$162,864
Central Support	\$1,229,434	\$1,715,819	\$486,385
Supervision/Staff Development	\$4,791,737	\$4,546,918	(\$244,819)
Census	\$1,000	\$0	(\$1,000)
Employee Benefits	\$2,912,911	\$3,170,960	\$258,049
Capital Expenditures	\$22,513,229	\$22,175,143	(\$338,086)
Operation/Maintenance of Plan	\$9,340,229	\$8,617,142	(\$723,087)
Central Support	\$205,000	\$106,000	(\$99,000)
Employee Benefits	\$2,026,086	\$2,610,053	\$583,967
Debt service	\$10,941,914	\$10,841,948	(\$99,966)
TOTAL	\$143,525,985	\$145,665,035	\$2,139,050

District Revenues



	2013-14 Budget	2014-15 Proposed	Dollar Change
General Aid	\$51,379,899	\$53,141,180	\$1,761,281
Building Aid	\$8,094,391	\$7,803,499	(\$290,892)
Kindergarten Aid ¹	\$3,250,966	—	(\$3,250,966)
Other Revenue			
PILOTS	\$526,450	\$545,505	\$19,055
County sales tax	\$250,000	\$350,000	\$100,000
Interest	\$120,000	\$60,000	(\$60,000)
Rent	\$346,000	\$350,000	\$4,000
Fund balance	\$700,000	\$847,356	\$147,356
Other	\$2,257,011	\$2,309,554	\$52,543
Subtotal	\$4,199,461	\$4,462,415	\$262,954
Property taxes			
Property tax levy	\$78,498,349	\$80,257,941	\$1,759,592
TOTAL	\$145,423,066	\$145,665,035	\$241,969

(1)\$1.4 mil used in 2013-14, \$1.3 mil used in 2014-15 and the balance used in 2015-16

District continues to make responsible reductions

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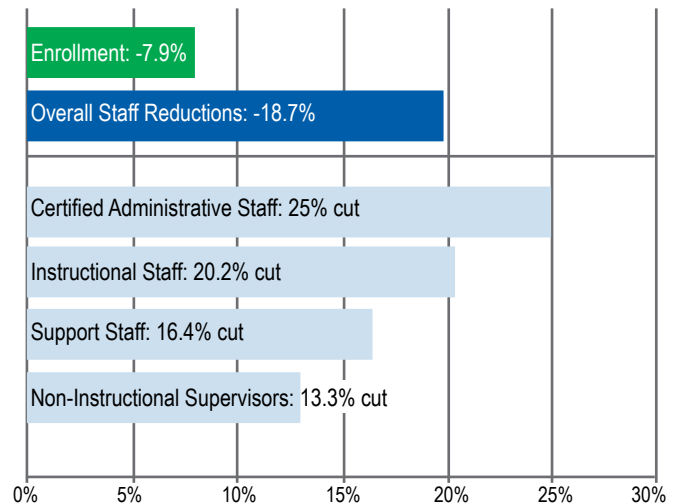
Due to the insufficient state aid, districts across the state have been forced to reduce expenditures and/or increase the amount of money raised through the local tax levy. The tax cap limits a district's ability to increase the tax levy.

Over the past seven years, the North Syracuse Central School District has made significant reductions in all areas in order to balance its budget. Although student enrollment has declined by only 7.9 percent since 2008-09, the district has reduced staff by 18.7 percent. The chart to the right shows the percentages by which enrollment has declined in comparison to cuts in all areas of staffing.

"Our budget is already lean with per-pupil spending among the lowest in the state. While this budget does propose additional reductions, most are being made due to declining enrollment and case loads," said Associate Superintendent for Business Services Donald F.X. Keegan.

He added, "As always our concern is to provide the highest quality programs and services to our students while fulfilling our financial responsibility to our taxpayers."

Declining Enrollment vs. Staff Reductions since 2008-09



C-NS Athletic Complex Reserve, What is This For?

On October 16, 2013, voters in the North Syracuse Central School District approved the C-NS Stadium & Security Referendum to replace the turf field, resurface the running track, repair the field drainage system and upgrade classroom door locks at C-NS High School. On May 20, 2014, the voters will be asked to authorize the use of the C-NS Athletic Complex Reserve Fund of \$304,000 to cover the local share of this project. Authorization allows this project to have a \$0 tax impact.

Tax levy, tax rates, tax bills:

What does it all mean?

A **tax levy** represents the amount of money the school district will collect from local property owners to fund its budget. It is figured after taking into account all other revenues, including state aid.

Next year's tax levy for residents of the North Syracuse Central School District would increase by \$1,759,592, or 2.24 percent, under the budget proposal.

The tax rate – or the amount to be charged per \$1,000 of assessed property value – is figured by dividing the tax levy into the total assessed value of properties within the school district. Assessed values are determined by town assessment practice.

Since the District does not have information on current year assessments, they are projecting that the tax rates will increase at 2.24 percent, the same rate as the proposed tax levy.

Tax bills – the final amount that each homeowner pays varies depending on individual property assessments and the town's final tax rate.



The tax rate is set in August after towns finalize their assessments and the state sets equalization rates, which equalize the tax burden between towns.

In other words, some taxpayers may see their bills go up by more than 2.24 percent while others may see their tax bills go up by less. In that situation, the school district is not collecting any more taxes. Rather, the tax burden is being redistributed to take into account shifting property values.

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

The Board of Education is the official policy-making body of the North Syracuse Central School District. The Board is composed of nine members who are elected by District voters to three-year terms. Members receive no salary for serving on the Board. The terms of three Board members expire each June 30th. Board members may seek re-election at the annual budget vote. This year there are four candidates running for three vacant seats due to the expiration of terms. The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to three (3) year terms (from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2017).



Sandra DiBianco has made her home in the North Syracuse Central School District since 1974. Her children are graduates of the district.

DiBianco has had a life-long interest in children's education and development. She first sought election to the Board of Education after 15 years of active involvement as a Parent Teacher Organization and district-wide Parents Awareness Council officer, volunteer, tutor and

substitute teacher. She served on the Board of Education from July of 1988 until June of 2013.

During her 25 year tenure on the Board of Education, DiBianco inaugurated, and for seven years, chaired the Legislative Action Committee and the Policy Committee and sat on the District Advisory Committee and the Executive Committee. She represented the BOE on numerous other committees, among them: the Committee to Develop the District's PART 100.11 Plan for Shared Decision Making, the Committee for Academic Intervention Services, the Safe Schools Against Violence In Education Committee, and the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Committee.

★ *continued on page 7*



Elizabeth Kasch resides in Liverpool with her husband Mike. Kasch's three children, Michael, Jr., Matthew and Nicolette attend North Syracuse Central Schools at both C-NS high school and Roxboro Road Middle School.

Kasch earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Master of Arts in Counseling from SUNY Oswego. She is employed at OCM BOCES as a substitute teaching assistant.

Kasch was PTO president at Allen Road Elementary School for four years and is an active member in the Roxboro Road Middle School PTO. She is an active booster club member and currently chairs the Parent Advisory Council. She is a past member of Superintendent's Advisory Committee, District Advisory Committee and a past board member of North Syracuse Little League.

Kasch feels that every child should receive a quality education in the North Syracuse Central School District. She believes that the students should be afforded as many opportunities as possible to help them be successful in our ever changing world. She believes that she can help students and parents achieve this by participating on the Board of Education to help ensure that academic courses, extracurricular activities and athletic programs be offered while staying fiscally responsible to the taxpayers. ★

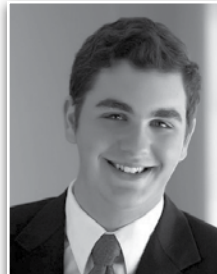


Scot McClintock has lived in the North Syracuse Central School District for 37 years, currently residing in the Town of Clay (7740 Japine Dr.) with his wife Lori, a second grade teacher at Allen Road Elementary School. Daughter Sara is a speech pathologist in Boston; daughter Holly is a registered nurse at Upstate; and daughter Lindsay is an Associate Account Services Specialist for Partners in Health Systems and a District taxpayer. All three daughters have benefited greatly from

the district's fine academic programs and a girls' cross country & track program with the emphasis on each athlete enjoying success through hard work.

McClintock graduated from Newburgh Free Academy in 1970. He completed a BS in Civil Engineering in 1974 and a Masters of Engineering in 1975 from Cornell University. A licensed Professional Engineer and Certified Value Specialist, he is the head of Value Management for Faithful+Gould, applying the concepts of Value Management to provide essential functions of major projects or programs at the minimum life cycle cost.

★ *continued on page 7*



Michael A. Mirizio is a 2010 graduate of Cicero-North Syracuse High School and an upcoming 2014 graduate of Le Moyne College; he is studying Political Science and Pre-Law. He has served on the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education since 2011. Mirizio has been involved with a number of district activities and clubs for many years, and currently volunteers his time with students.

Mirizio has served as the President of the North Syracuse Junior High Tech Crew and has now been appointed a voluntary advisor for the club. He has helped to bring many advances for the various shows and performances in the district. Michael has received numerous awards and achievements throughout his school career, which include multiple Optimist Awards and numerous Outstanding Character and Achievement Awards. He also received the Andrew Cuomo CCC Award for most likely to succeed in his graduating class.

★ *continued on page 7*

***Each Board of Education candidate is responsible for writing his or her own biography.
The District does not endorse one candidate over another.***

School Board Candidates ★ *continued from page 6*

Sandra DiBianco (continued from page 6)

DiBianco was one of the founding members of North Syracuse Dollars For Scholars and served on its board for 16 years. She currently serves on the North Syracuse Education Foundation's Board of Directors, the Friends of the Can Teen, the Community Connections Advisory Board, Early Literacy Volunteers, and the C-NS Optimist Club.

DiBianco has been a member of the Central New York Reading Council, Literacy Volunteers, the Board of Directors of the Cultural Resources Council, the New York State Council for the Arts, and the Syracuse Stage Guild Board of Directors. She currently sits on the Everson Museum of Art's Members' Council Board, CAVORT, and the Board of Directors of Chadwick Residence, which provides shelter and needed services to women and their children.

These are trying times for public education and for educators and their students. The concerted effort of all stakeholders is necessary in order to meet the economic and educational challenges facing our schools. During the last several months, DiBianco has been approached by a cross section of members of the school community and the surrounding communities to run for re-election to the Board of Education and to resume her efforts on their behalf. ★

Scot McClintock (continued from page 6)

McClintock has used his knowledge of the District's facility needs and Value Management techniques over his 21 years on the board to help the Board of Education make necessary, but cost-effective, decisions.

McClintock's goal of being part of a successful referendum to renovate our school facilities has been met nine times. He has led seven Value Management workshops on the District's technology plan, and the renovation plans for Cicero-North Syracuse High School; Allen Road, Roxboro Road, and Smith Road Elementary Schools; and both Gillette Road and Roxboro Road Middle Schools resulting in savings of nearly \$8 million. He also recognizes the need to continually improve communication between the Board of Education and the taxpayers so the community can understand and support Board recommendations and budgets.

As a taxpayer, McClintock is proud of the District, but concerned about improving our student's academic performance while state aid is continually threatened by the economy and New York State politics. We have been forced to cut positions and services due to NYS reductions in funding to education while capping what districts can raise in taxes.

In addition, our County no longer shares sales tax revenues with school districts. The difference can only come from school taxes and/or cuts. McClintock believes that the District, meaning taxpayers, students, parents, administrators, teachers, and the Board of Education, must work together to solve these problems and many others. He requests your support so he can continue to work for you on your Board of Education. As said by Irish Poet William Butler Yeats: "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." ★

Michael Mirizio (continued from page 6)

Mirizio is currently employed with Apple as a technician at the Genius Bar. He also helps out at Sacred Heart Church in Cicero in their technology division as well as volunteering for church events.

Mirizio is the son of Anthony and Sharon Mirizio who reside in Cicero, NY. He had attended school in this district since kindergarten. He has one sister, Maria, who attends the North Syracuse Junior High School and one brother, Stephen, who is a 2013 Graduate of Cicero-North Syracuse High School.

Over the past three years, Mirizio's involvement on the School Board has helped shape the district to accommodate the numerous new mandates that our school district is facing. Through collaborative efforts, He has been involved in many different committees throughout the district and the community to help make the most effective and most reasonable changes to the district that has had to be made. While the school district has faced financial setbacks, Mirizio has felt that his input has influenced decisions made to do better with less without effecting our children's education.

Mirizio feels that his unique knowledge in technology and its usefulness in the classroom today comes as an advantage to the school board. With the new fast paced learning standards and the necessity for students to become 21st century learners, his experience helps the board make well-informed decisions. As someone who recently graduated, he feels that his "inside-out" look on the schools can also be more than beneficial to the school board. ★

Two North Syracuse CSD Students earn *National* recognition

Congratulations to Cicero-North Syracuse High School (C-NS) students; sophomore Samantha Blume, and senior Laurel Conley, for recently having achieved national recognition for their artwork. The students, who also placed in the CNY Scholastic Art Awards Competition, entered The National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, a program that identifies and develops creative teenagers, and were both selected as silver medalists.

Heather Blaski, who is Laurel's Art Teacher at C-NS, was excited about the news. She said, "Out of 255,000 entries into the contest this year, only one percent made it to the national awards. Our district has not had a national winner in the past several years so this is a tremendous honor for these talented young ladies!"

Samantha was recognized for "Candy Lips," a photo she took while a student at the North Syracuse Junior High School under the guidance of art teacher Kathleen Ehrlich. Ms. Ehrlich said, "Samantha is a shining example of the exceptional young artists we have in this district. I am very proud of her and ecstatic to see the creative outlet we provide for our students recognized on a national level."

The students will be recognized for their accomplishments at a ceremony in New York City this coming June.

**For more budget news go to
www/nscsd.org/budget**

Please Vote!

Tuesday, May 20 2014

6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

On the ballot

- 2014-15 school budget proposition: \$145,665,035
- School bus purchase proposition: \$1,409,896
- Salina Free Library proposition: \$415,624
- Appropriation of funds from C-NS Athletic Complex Reserve to fund voter approved project
- Three seats on the Board of Education

Voter qualifications

- U.S. citizen;
- 18 years of age or older;
- Resident of the school district for at least 30 days prior to the vote; and
- Not under sentence for a felony conviction and not adjudged mentally incompetent.

Registration Information: If you are not registered to vote with the County or District, you must pre-register by May 15, 2014. The District is holding a special evening registration from 4 to 8 p.m. on May 6, 2014 at Cicero Elementary School and at the Jerome F. Melvin Administrative Office Building (5355 West Taft Road) in North Syracuse. Residents may also register at the Administrative Office Building through May 15, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Absentee Ballots: Qualified voters of the District may obtain an absentee ballot by completing an application with the Office of the District Clerk. Completed absentee ballot applications must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 19, 2014. If a voter would like their absentee ballot to be mailed, a completed application must be received by 5 p.m. on May 13, 2014. Any applications received after 5 p.m. on May 13, 2014 will require the voter to personally appear at the Office of the District Clerk to receive an absentee ballot.

For questions regarding voting, absentee ballots or polling places, please contact Connie A. Gibson, District Clerk, at 218-2131.

Polling Places

For residents living
SOUTH of 481

Administrative Office Building
5355 West Taft Road
North Syracuse, NY

For residents living
NORTH of 481

Cicero Elementary School
Route 31
Cicero, NY

BUS PURCHASE REFERENDUM

On May 20, the North Syracuse Central School District will be asking voters to decide upon the purchase of several new buses as recommended in the district's long-term bus replacement plan. The bus replacement program, which was established in May, 2002 has led to a reduction in fleet size, reduction in mechanics and improved bus inspection rates.

Each year, all school buses must pass a rigorous state inspection. Replacement of buses normally occurs after 10 years when it is no longer cost-effective to meet those standards.

The 2014-15 proposition includes the following purchases at a total cost not to exceed \$1,409,896:

- 10 new 65 passenger diesel school buses;
- One new 39 passenger diesel school bus with one to three wheelchair positions and air conditioning;
- One new 48 passenger bus with air conditioning; and
- One new 29 passenger bus.

The state will reimburse the district over a five-year period for approximately 76 percent of the cost. Local property taxes would pay for the remainder of the cost, which is about a \$2.00 annual tax increase for a home assessed at \$100,000 before the STAR exemption.

	Cicero	Clay	Salina
Bus Proposition			
Tax Increase for a \$100,000 home after aid/before STAR	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00

Budget public hearing

May 6, 2014, 7 p.m.

Jerome F. Melvin Administrative Office Building
(5355 West Taft Road in North Syracuse)

More budget information:

Copies of the budget can be reviewed Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jerome F. Melvin Administrative Office Building (5355 West Taft Road) in North Syracuse.

More information is available at www.nscsd.org/budget.